REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the above-identified application is requested in view of the amendments made herein and the following remarks.

By the present Amendment, Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 12, 13 and 16 are canceled. Claims 4, 6, 8-11, 14, 15 and 17-20 remain pending, with Claims 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 14, 16, 17 and 19 being independent.

Claims 6, 10, 14, 17 and 20 are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 6, 10, 14 and 17 have been rewritten in independent form, and Claim 20 depends from Claim 6. These claims, as rewritten, are considered allowable. Applicants' independent claims 4, 8, 11, 15 and 19 are also considered allowable.

The present application discloses a turbocharger for an internal combustion engine. Figure 1 shows an exemplary embodiment of an exhaust-gas turbine having a turbine casing 1. The turbine casing has a radially outer, spiral gas-inlet casing and a casing wall 12 on the gas outlet side. A bearing housing 4 has a shaft 3 that is rotatably mounted using bearings 31. A turbine wheel 5 is arranged on the shaft 3 and has moving blades 51. An inflow passage is defined on one side by the casing wall 12 on the gas outlet side, whereas a disk-shaped intermediate wall 2 serving as heat protection is arranged on the other side.

Figure 2 shows an embodiment having a heat-protection wall 2. A seating 21 designed as an encircling edge is arranged on the heat-protection wall 2 in the radially inner region and rests on a seating 41, likewise designed as an encircling edge, of the bearing housing. In the stationary state of the exhaust-gas turbine, when the heat-protection wall 2 and the bearing housing are cold, there may be a

small air gap of a few micrometers up to several hundred micrometers between the two seatings, thereby permitting simple fitting, *i.e.* the slipping of the heat-protection wall 2 onto the bearing housing in the axial direction. In the radially outer region, the heat-protection wall 2 is disposed with a radially outer seating 22 on a seating 11, directed radially inward, of the turbine casing. There is a corresponding small air gap between the two seatings in the stationary state of the exhaust-gas turbine.

When the heat-protection wall 2 has a considerably higher temperature compared with the bearing housing, the heat-protection wall can expand in a thermally induced manner, in the radial direction. When that happens, the inner seating 21 of the heat-protection wall can be pressed against the corresponding seatings 41 of the cool bearing housing, thereby reducing the air gap. The air gap between the outer seating 22 of the heat-protection wall and the seating 11 of the turbine casing can be reduced, but is not completely closed, since the turbine casing can likewise expand on account of the considerable heat. Due to the radially inner seating 21 of the heat-protection wall 2, which bears against the seating 41 of the bearing housing, accurate centering of the heat-protection wall 2 can be ensured, and accurate centering of the turbine casing 1 can also be ensured due to the reduced outer air gap.

Claim 4 encompasses exemplary embodiments described in Applicants' specification, and recites a heat-protection wall for an exhaust-gas turbine, the exhaust-gas turbine having a turbine casing, a shaft rotatably mounted in a bearing housing, and a turbine wheel arranged on the shaft. The heat-protection wall defines with the turbine casing an inflow passage leading to the turbine wheel. The heat-protection wall has at least two seatings for centering the turbine casing relative to

the shaft, a first seating of the at least two seatings being provided for resting on the bearing housing, and a second seating of the at least two seatings being provided for resting on the turbine casing. At least one of the first or second seatings is designed as an encircling edge which is provided for resting on the bearing housing and/or the turbine casing. The first and second seatings are designed to be directed radially outwards.

Original Claims 4, 8, 11, 15 and 19 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,679,984 to Swihart et al., hereinafter *Swihart*. However, these claims are allowable over this patent.

Swihart discloses a turbocharger having a variable nozzle vane assembly. The Examiner identified the backplate 24 shown in Figure 4 in *Swihart* as corresponding to and disclosing the heat-protection wall. However, *Swihart* does not disclose a heat-protection wall that has two seats that are both directed radially outwards, as recited in Claim 4. For at least that reason, Claim 4 is allowable.

The other independent claims recite subject matter relating to seats that are radial. For example, Claim 8 recites, in combination with other features, a seating being directed radially inwards. Claims 11 and 15 recite, in combination with other features, slots that extend radially and are provided for receiving centering lugs attached to a heat-protection wall. Claim 19 recites, in combination with other features, centering lugs that are provided for engaging radially extending slots which are set into either a bearing housing or a turbine casing. For similar reasons as those set forth for Claim 4, Claims 8, 11, 15 and 19 are allowable.

The dependent claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable independent Claims.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, or should the Examiner feel that a teleconference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to the application, the undersigned requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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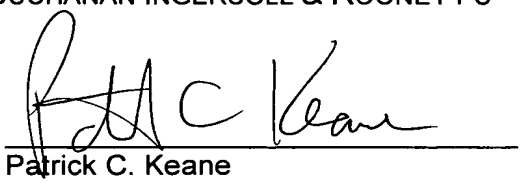
Date: March 5, 2007 By: 

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